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10/689,295	10/20/2003	Richard M. Barrett JR.	073671.0184	4284

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BAKER BOTTS L.L.P.
2001 ROSS AVENUE
SUITE 600
DALLAS, TX 75201-2980

EXAMINER

LEE, CHRISTOPHER E

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2112

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/689,295	Applicant(s) BARRETT ET AL.	
	Examiner Christopher E. Lee	Art Unit 2112	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 October 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-39 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6, 11-19 and 24-39 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 7-10 and 20-23 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 20 October 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>See item 6) Other</u> . | 6) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: <u>See Continuation Sheet</u> . |

Continuation of Attachment(s) 6). Other: IDS filing dates 8/3/04, 8/6/04, 2/25/05, and 6/3/05.

DETAILED ACTION***Receipt Acknowledgement***

1. Receipt is acknowledged of the request filed on 20th of December 2003 for a Continuation-In-Part (CIP) under 37 CFR 1.53(b) based on prior Application No. 10/329,101 filed on 23rd of December 2002, which the request is acceptable and a CIP has been established since this Application repeats a substantial portion of the prior Application, and adds and claims additional disclosure not presented in the prior Application, and this Application names an inventor or inventors named in the prior Application.

Notice for the benefit of filing date

2. The Examiner notices that the specification on pages 3-4, Summary of the Invention, on page 5, line 19 through page 6, line 2, on page 12, line 20 through page 18, line 17, on page 20, lines 12-19, on page 23, lines 10-15, on page 24, lines 18-24, on page 29, line 14 through page 39, line 28, on page 53, Abstract of the Disclosure, Fig. 2 and Figs. 9-15 are newly added matters to the parent Application 10/329,101.

Further, the claimed limitations in the claims 1-3, 5, 7-12, 14-16, 18, 20-25, 27-29, 31, and 33-38 are claimed in this CIP Application 10/689,295, which are not supported by the specification of the parent Application 10/329,101, but by the newly added matters in the specification of this CIP Application.

Therefore, **the effective filing date of the claims 1-3, 5, 7-12, 14-16, 18, 20-25, 27-29, 31, and 33-38 would be 20th of October 2003, and the effective filing date of the claims 4, 6, 13, 17, 19, 26, 30, 32, and 39 would be 23rd of December 2002** in this CIP Application, separately.

Specification

3. The lengthy specification has not been checked to the extent necessary to determine the presence of all possible minor errors. Applicant's cooperation is requested in correcting any errors of which applicant may become aware in the specification.

4. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities:

Substitute "FIGURES 1 or 2" on page 5, lines 12, 14, and 16 by --FIGURES 1 or 3--, respectively.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Objections

- 5 5. Claims 10, 23, and 36 are objected to because of the following informalities:

The claims 10, 23, and 36 recite the subject matter "among all the second wireless interfaces" in line 2, respectively. However, the subject matter "the second wireless interface" is not plural according to the scope of the claimed invention.

Appropriate correction is required.

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Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

6. 35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

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7. Claims 27-39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter.

In the claim 27, it is unclear to what statutory category of invention the claim is intended to belong. Use of the transitional phrase "operable to" in the context of this particular claim merely sets forth the intended use of the logic. Assuming for arguments sake that the intent is the logic being comprised of software for accomplishing the recited functions in the intended use, the claim still fails to include any hardware to enable that functionality to be realized and provide a useful, concrete and tangible result.

Furthermore, the claim 27 is not limited to tangible embodiments. In view of the Applicants' disclosure, the media is not limited to tangible embodiments in the specification, and thus it would be defined as including both tangible embodiments (e.g., recordable type media such as floppy disks and CD RW) and intangible embodiments (e.g., transmission type media such as digital and analog

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communications links). As such, the claim is not limited to statutory subject matter, and is therefore non-statutory. The claim 28-39 are dependent claims of the claim 27.

The Examiner presumes the claimed subject matter "the logic encoded in media and when executed operable to selectively:" as "the logic comprising the steps of operable to selectively:" for the purpose of claim rejection based on prior art.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

8. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

9. Claims 1, 14, and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Brockmann et al. [EP 1 039 695 A1; cited by the Applicants; hereinafter Brockmann].

Referring to claim 1, Brockmann discloses a system (i.e., System in the Figure) for providing both wireline and wireless connections (i.e., wireless and wired connection channels 8, 9 in the Figure) to a wireline interface (i.e., access point 3 of the Figure), the system comprising:

- a first wireline interface (i.e., means for interfacing computer 3 with interface card 10 in the Figure);
- a second wireline interface (i.e., 2nd adapter card 5 of the Figure; See col. 3, lines 21-24);
- a wireless interface (i.e., 1st adapter card 4 of the Figure; See col. 3, lines 19-21); and
- a switch (i.e., microcontroller 6 of the Figure) coupled to the first wireline and wireless interfaces (See col. 2, lines 47-54), the switch (i.e., said microcontroller) being operable to selectively:
 - couple the first wireline interface (i.e., said means for interfacing computer with interface card) to the second wireline interface (i.e., said 2nd adapter card; in fact, said computer 3

being coupled to wired network 2 in the Figure) to allow communication between the first and second wireline interfaces (i.e., data traffic between said computer and said data network 'ringnet'; See col. 3, lines 11-19); and

- o couple the first wireline interface (i.e., said means for interfacing computer with interface card) to the wireless interface (i.e., said 1st adapter card) to allow communication between the first wireline interface and the wireless interface (See col. 3, lines 54-58).

Referring to claim 14, Brockmann discloses a method (i.e., interfacing method; See col. 1, lines 3-6) for providing both wireline and wireless connections (i.e., wireless and wired connection channels 8, 9 in the Figure) to a wireline interface (i.e., access point 3 of the Figure), the method (i.e., said interfacing method) comprising selectively:

- coupling a first wireline interface (i.e., means for interfacing computer 3 with interface card 10 in the Figure) to a second wireline interface (i.e., 2nd adapter card 5 of the Figure; See col. 3, lines 21-24) to allow communication between the first and second wireline interfaces to allow communication between the first and second wireline interfaces (i.e., data traffic between said computer and said data network, in fact, ringnet; See col. 3, lines 11-19); and
- coupling the first wireline interface (i.e., means for interfacing computer 3 with interface card 10 in the Figure) to a wireless interface (i.e., 1st adapter card 4 of the Figure; See col. 3, lines 19-21) to allow communication between the first wireline interface and the wireless interface (See col. 3, lines 54-58).

Referring to claim 27, Brockmann discloses Logic (i.e., interface card 10 in the Figure; See col. 1, lines 3-6) for providing both wireline and wireless connections (i.e., wireless and wired connection channels 8, 9 in the Figure) to a wireline interface (i.e., access point 3 of the Figure), the logic (i.e., said interface card) comprising the steps of operable to selectively:

- couple a first wireline interface (i.e., means for interfacing computer 3 with interface card 10 in the Figure) to a second wireline interface (i.e., 2nd adapter card 5 of the Figure; See col. 3, lines 21-24) to allow communication between the first and second wireline interfaces to allow communication between the first and second wireline interfaces (i.e., data traffic between said computer and said data network, in fact, ringnet; See col. 3, lines 11-19); and
- couple the first wireline interface (i.e., means for interfacing computer 3 with interface card 10 in the Figure) to a wireless interface (i.e., 1st adapter card 4 of the Figure; See col. 3, lines 19-21) to allow communication between the first wireline interface and the wireless interface (See col. 3, lines 54-58).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

10. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

11. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary.

Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

12. Claims 2, 3, 5, 6, 11, 12, 15, 16, 18, 19, 24, 25, 28, 29, 31, 32, 37, and 38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brockmann [EP 1 039 695 A1] as applied to claims 1, 14, and 27 above, and further in view of Lam et al. [US 2003/0142683 A1; hereinafter Lam].

Referring to claim 2, Brockmann discloses all the limitations of the claim 2, including

- the second wireline interface (i.e., 2nd adapter card 5 of the Figure) is coupled to a fourth wireline interface (i.e., 'ringnet' interfaces in the computers 2.1-2.5 in the Figure; See col. 3, lines 11-14) using a second wireline connection (i.e., wired connection channel 9 in the Figure); and
- 5 • the wireless interface (i.e., 1st adapter card 4 of the Figure; See col. 3, lines 19-21) comprises a first wireless interface (i.e., means for transmitting/receiving signals in said 1st adapter card; See wireless signals from said 1st adapter card in the Figure) that is operable to communicate with a second wireless interface (i.e., means for transmitting/receiving signals in computers 1.1-1.4 in the Figure; See wireless signals from said computers 1.1-1.4 in the Figure) via a wireless
- 10 connection (i.e., wireless connection channel 8 in the Figure),

except that does not expressly teach that the first wireline interface is coupled to a third wireline interface using a first wireline connection; the coupling the first wireline interface to the second wireline interface allows communication between the third and fourth wireline interfaces via the first and second wireline connections; and the coupling the first wireless interface to the first wireline interface allows

15 communication between the second wireless interface and the third wireline interface via the wireless and first wireline connections.

Lam discloses a method and apparatus for a flexible peripheral access router (See Abstract), wherein a local network router (See paragraph [0016]) comprising:

- a first wireline interface (i.e., local USB interface 70 of Fig. 3A) is coupled to a third wireline interface (i.e., USB Device 80 of Fig. 3A) using a first wireline connection (i.e., USB Bus; See paragraph [0037], lines 10-12);
- 20 • a second wireline interface (i.e., local ETHERNET interface 66 of Fig. 3A) is coupled to a fourth wireline interface (i.e., INTERNET Devices 76 of Fig. 3A) using a second wireline connection (i.e., Internet connectivity; See paragraph [0017]);

- a first wireless interface (i.e., local RADIO MODEM interface 72 of Fig. 3A) that is operable to communicate with a second wireless interface (i.e., WIRELESS Devices 82 in Fig. 3A) via a wireless connection (i.e., via 802.11b for wireless communication; See paragraph [0035], lines 11-13);

- 5
- coupling of the first wireline interface (i.e., said local USB interface) to the second wireline interface (i.e., said local ETHERNET interface) allows communication between the third and fourth wireline interfaces (i.e., said USB Device and said INTERNET Devices) via the first and second wireline connections (See paragraph [0035]); and
 - coupling of the first wireless interface (i.e., local RADIO MODEM interface 72 of Fig. 3A) to the
- 10
- first wireline interface (i.e., said local USB interface) allows communication between the second wireless interface (i.e., said WIRELESS Devices) and the third wireline interface (i.e., said USB Device) via the wireless and first wireline connections (i.e., via said 802.11b for wireless communication and said USB Bus; See paragraphs [0010] and [0035]).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was

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made to have included said local network router, as disclosed by Lam, in said system, as disclosed by Brockmann, for the advantage of allowing communication between a number of remotely located users, and a plurality of peripheral devices connected to said local are network router (See Lam, paragraph [0016], lines 1-6).

20 *Referring to claim 3, Lam teaches*

- a peripheral device (e.g., Printer 54 of Fig. 2; See paragraph [0035]) is associated with the third wireline interface (i.e., USB Device 80 of Fig. 3A);
- a first computer system (i.e., Internet Access Computers) is associated with the fourth wireline interface (i.e., INTERNET Devices 76 of Fig. 3A);

- a second computer system (i.e., Computers 10 in Fig. 2) is associated with the second wireless interface (i.e., WIRELESS Devices 82 in Fig. 3A);
- the coupling of the first wireline interface (i.e., local USB interface 70 of Fig. 3A) to the second wireline interface (i.e., local ETHERNET interface 66 of Fig. 3A) allows communication
5 between the peripheral device and the first computer system (i.e., said Printer as USB Device and said Internet Access Computers as INTERNET Devices) via the first and second wireline connections (See paragraph [0035]); and
- the coupling of the first wireless interface (i.e., local RADIO MODEM interface 72 of Fig. 3A; Lam) to the first wireline interface (i.e., said local USB interface) allows communication between
10 the peripheral device and the second computer system (i.e., said Printer as USB Device and said Computers as WIRELESS Devices) via the wireless and first wireline connections (i.e., via 802.11b for wireless communication and USB Bus; See paragraphs [0010] and [0035]).

Referring to claim 5, Lam teaches

- the wireless connection (i.e., 802.11b for wireless communication; See paragraph [0035], lines 11-13) is automatically established when the second wireless interface (i.e., WIRELESS Devices 82 in Fig. 3A) is coupled to the second computer system (i.e., Computers 10 in Fig. 2; in fact, said IEEE 802.11b automatically establishing connection when an access point communicates via an omni-directional antenna with one or more clients that are located in a coverage area around the access
20 point).

Referring to claim 6, Lam teaches

- the peripheral device (See paragraph [0035]) is a printer (i.e., Printer 54 of Fig. 2), a scanner (i.e., Scanner 52 of Fig. 2), digital camera (i.e., Camera 44 of Fig. 2), or modem (i.e., LAN 40 or Internet 42 in Fig. 2).

5 *Referring to claim 11, Lam teaches*

- the wireless connection (i.e., 802.11b for wireless communication; See paragraph [0035], lines 11-13) is automatically established when the first wireless interface (i.e., local RADIO MODEM interface 72 of Fig. 3A) is reset (in fact, said IEEE 802.11b automatically establishing connection after reset when an access point communicates via an omni-directional antenna with one or more clients that are located in a coverage area around the access point).

10 *Referring to claim 12, Lam teaches*

- the first and second wireline connections (i.e., USB bus and Internet connectivity) each comprising one or more shielded twisted-pair wires (i.e., for Ethernet networks); and one or more serial buses (i.e., for USB bus).

15 *Referring to claims 15, 16, 18, 19, 24, and 25, the method steps of claims 15, 16, 18, 19, 24, and 25 are inherently performed by the apparatus of claims 2, 3, 5, 6, 11, and 12, and therefore the rejections of claims 2, 3, 5, 6, 11, and 12 apply to claims 15, 16, 18, 19, 24, and 25, respectively.*

20 *Referring to claim 28, Brockmann discloses all the limitations of the claim 28, including*

- the second wireline interface (i.e., 2nd adapter card 5 of the Figure) is coupled to a fourth wireline interface (i.e., 'ringnet' interfaces in the computers 2.1-2.5 in the Figure; See col. 3, lines 11-14) using a second wireline connection (i.e., wired connection channel 9 in the Figure); and

- the wireless interface (i.e., 1st adapter card 4 of the Figure; See col. 3, lines 19-21) comprises a first wireless interface (i.e., means for transmitting/receiving signals in said 1st adapter card; See wireless signals from said 1st adapter card in the Figure) that is operable to communicate with a second wireless interface (i.e., means for transmitting/receiving signals in computers 1.1-1.4 in the Figure; See wireless signals from said computers 1.1-1.4 in the Figure) via a wireless connection (i.e., wireless connection channel 8 in the Figure),

except that does not expressly teach that the first wireline interface is coupled to a third wireline interface using a first wireline connection; the coupling the first wireline interface to the second wireline interface allows communication between the third and fourth wireline interfaces via the first and second wireline connections; and the coupling the first wireless interface to the first wireline interface allows communication between the second wireless interface and the third wireline interface via the wireless and first wireline connections.

Lam discloses a method and apparatus for a flexible peripheral access router (See Abstract), wherein a local network router (See paragraph [0016]) comprising:

- a first wireline interface (i.e., local USB interface 70 of Fig. 3A) is coupled to a third wireline interface (i.e., USB Device 80 of Fig. 3A) using a first wireline connection (i.e., USB Bus; See paragraph [0037], lines 10-12);
- a second wireline interface (i.e., local ETHERNET interface 66 of Fig. 3A) is coupled to a fourth wireline interface (i.e., INTERNET Devices 76 of Fig. 3A) using a second wireline connection (i.e., Internet connectivity; See paragraph [0017]);
- a first wireless interface (i.e., local RADIO MODEM interface 72 of Fig. 3A) that is operable to communicate with a second wireless interface (i.e., WIRELESS Devices 82 in Fig. 3A) via a wireless connection (i.e., 802.11b for wireless communication; See paragraph [0035], lines 11-13);

- coupling of the first wireline interface (i.e., said local USB interface) to the second wireline interface (i.e., said local ETHERNET interface) allows communication between the third and fourth wireline interfaces (i.e., said USB Device and said INTERNET Devices) via the first and second wireline connections (See paragraph [0035]); and

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- coupling of the first wireless interface (i.e., local RADIO MODEM interface 72 of Fig. 3A) to the first wireline interface (i.e., said local USB interface) allows communication between the second wireless interface (i.e., said WIRELESS Devices) and the third wireline interface (i.e., said USB Device) via the wireless and first wireline connections (i.e., said 802.11b for wireless communication and said USB Bus; See paragraphs [0010] and [0035]).

10 Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have included said local network router, as disclosed by Lam, in said logic (i.e., interface card), as disclosed by Brockmann, for the advantage of allowing communication between a number of remotely located users, and a plurality of peripheral devices connected to said local are network router (See Lam, paragraph [0016], lines 1-6).

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Referring to claim 29, Lam teaches

- a peripheral device (e.g., Printer 54 of Fig. 2; See paragraph [0035]) is associated with the third wireline interface (i.e., USB Device 80 of Fig. 3A);
- a first computer system (i.e., Internet Access Computers) is associated with the fourth wireline interface (i.e., INTERNET Devices 76 of Fig. 3A);
- 20 • a second computer system (i.e., Computers 10 in Fig. 2) is associated with the second wireless interface (i.e., WIRELESS Devices 82 in Fig. 3A);
- the coupling of the first wireline interface (i.e., local USB interface 70 of Fig. 3A) to the second wireline interface (i.e., local ETHERNET interface 66 of Fig. 3A) allows communication

between the peripheral device and the first computer system (i.e., said Printer as USB Device and said Internet Access Computers as INTERNET Devices) via the first and second wireline connections (See paragraph [0035]); and

- the coupling of the first wireless interface (i.e., local RADIO MODEM interface 72 of Fig. 3A; Lam) to the first wireline interface (i.e., said local USB interface) allows communication between the peripheral device and the second computer system (i.e., said Printer as USB Device and said Computers as WIRELESS Devices) via the wireless and first wireline connections (i.e., via 802.11b for wireless communication and USB Bus; See paragraphs [0010] and [0035]).

10 *Referring to claim 31, Lam teaches*

- the wireless connection wireless connection (i.e., 802.11b for wireless communication; See paragraph [0035], lines 11-13) is automatically established when the second wireless interface (i.e., WIRELESS Devices 82 in Fig. 3A) is coupled to the second computer system (i.e., Computers 10 in Fig. 2; in fact, said IEEE 802.11b automatically establishing connection when an access point communicates via an omni-directional antenna with one or more clients that are located in a coverage area around the access point).

15 *Referring to claim 32, Lam teaches*

- the peripheral device (See paragraph [0035]) is a printer (i.e., Printer 54 of Fig. 2), a scanner (i.e., Scanner 52 of Fig. 2), digital camera (i.e., Camera 44 of Fig. 2), or modem (i.e., LAN 40 or Internet 42 in Fig. 2).

20 *Referring to claim 37, Lam teaches*

- the wireless connection (i.e., 802.11b for wireless communication; See paragraph [0035], lines 11-13) is automatically established when the first wireless interface (i.e., local RADIO MODEM interface 72 of Fig. 3A) is reset (in fact, said IEEE 802.11b automatically establishing connection after reset when an access point communicates via an omni-directional antenna with one or more clients that are located in a coverage area around the access point).

Referring to claim 38, Lam teaches

- the first and second wireline connections (i.e., USB bus and Internet connectivity) each comprising one or more shielded twisted-pair wires (i.e., for Ethernet networks); and one or more serial buses (i.e., for USB bus).

13. Claims 4, 17, and 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brockmann [EP 1 039 695 A1] in view of Lam [US 2003/0142683 A1] as applied to claims 2, 3, 5, 6, 11, 12, 15, 16, 18, 19, 24, 25, 28, 29, 31, 32, 37, and 38 above, and further in view of Samuels [US 6,363,085 B1] and Mowery et al. [US 2003/0083013 A1; cited by the Applicants; hereinafter Mowery].

Referring to claims 4, 17, and 30, Brockmann, as modified by Lam, discloses all the limitations of the claims 4, 17, and 30, respectively, including that

- the third wireline interface (i.e., USB Device 80 of Fig. 3A; Lam) is a USB port of the peripheral device (i.e., Printer 54 of Fig. 2; See Lam, paragraph [0035]);
- the fourth wireline interface (i.e., 'ringnet' interfaces in the computers 2.1-2.5 in the Figure; See Brockmann, col. 3, lines 11-14) is a port of the first computer system (i.e., 'ringnet' port of the computers 2.1-2.5 in the Figure); and
- the second wireless interface (i.e., WIRELESS Devices 82 in Fig. 3A; Lam) is coupled to the second computer system (i.e., Computers 10 in Fig. 2; Lam),

except that does not teach that the first wireline interface is a universal serial bus (USB) type A socket; the second wireline interface is a USB type B socket; said port of the first computer system is a USB port; the first wireless interface is a master adapter; and the second wireless interface is a slave adapter using a USB socket.

5 Samuels discloses a universal serial bus repeater (See Abstract), wherein

- a first wireline interface (i.e., Downstream Transceiver 104 and USB 'A' Connector 102 in Fig. 1) is a universal serial bus (USB) type A socket (See col. 2, lines 39-40);
- a second wireline interface (i.e., Upstream Transceiver 103 and USB 'B' Connector 101 in Fig. 1) is a USB type B socket (See col. 2, lines 37-39); and
- 10 • a port (i.e., downstream port) of a first computer system (i.e., host) is a USB port (See col. 2, lines 22-30).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have substituted said wireline interfaces, as disclosed by Brockmann, as modified by Lam, by said USB interface and its protocol, as disclosed by Samuels, for the advantage of allowing said
15 peripheral devices (i.e., computer peripherals) to be automatically configured as soon as they are physically attached (See Samuels, col. 1, lines 9-12), and further, allowing said peripheral device (i.e., USB device) to increase its distance from said computer systems (i.e., host system) well beyond the USB specification for cable length while staying within the USB specification for signal timing (See Samuels, col. 1, lines 27-30).

20 Brockmann, as modified by Lam and Samuels, does not teach that a first wireless interface is a master adapter; and the second wireless interface is a slave adapter using a USB socket.

Mowery discloses a Bluetooth transparent bridge (See Abstract and Fig. 3), wherein a protocol translator (i.e., Bluetooth-to-USB translator 635, 640 in Fig. 6; See paragraph [0049]) establishing

- a first wireless interface (i.e., Bluetooth interface in Peripheral 460 in Fig. 4b) is a master adapter (See paragraph [0034], lines 1-4; in fact, said Peripheral could be switched to Master in Fig. 4b); and
- a second wireless interface (i.e., Bluetooth interface in Computer system 455 in Fig. 4b) is a slave adapter (See paragraph [0034], lines 1-4; in fact, said Computer system could be switched to Slave in Fig. 4b) using a USB socket (i.e., USB 472 of Fig. 4b).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have included said protocol translator (i.e., Bluetooth-to-USB translator), as disclosed by Mowery, in said wireless interfaces, as disclosed by Brockmann, as modified by Lam and Samuels, for the advantage of permitting the attachment of said peripheral device to said computer systems using an unsupported attachment technology without requiring the development and deployment of support software (See Mowery, paragraph [0016]).

14. Claims 13, 26, and 39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brockmann [EP 1 039 695 A1] in view of Lam [US 2003/0142683 A1] as applied to claims 2, 3, 5, 6, 11, 12, 15, 16, 18, 19, 24, 25, 28, 29, 31, 32, 37, and 38 above, and further in view of Morris [US 2002/0159419 A1; cited by the Applicants].

Referring to claim 13, 26, and 39, Brockmann, as modified by Lam, discloses all the limitations of the claims 13, 26, and 39, respectively, except that does not teach that the first wireless interface is operable to communicate with the second wireless interface using a BLUETOOTH wireless protocol.

Morris discloses a system and method for connecting Bluetooth-enabled devices to a personal computer (See Abstract), wherein

- a first wireless interface (i.e., Bluetooth/USB interface 30 and antenna 60 in Fig. 1) is operable to communicate with a second wireless interface (i.e., Bluetooth-enabled peripheral device 50 and antenna 70 in Fig. 1) using a BLUETOOTH wireless protocol (See paragraph [0018]).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was

5 made to have applied said BLUETOOTH wireless protocol, as disclosed by Morris, to said wireless interfaces, as disclosed by Brockmann, as modified by Lam, for the advantage of enabling easy of synchronization and mobility for a plethora of corporate and consumer application (See Morris, paragraph [0006]).

Allowable Subject Matter

10 15. Claims 7-10 and 20-23 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, and further rewritten or amended to overcome the claim objection for the claims 10 and 23 under minor informality, set forth in this Office action.

15 16. Claims 33-36 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 101, set forth in this Office action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, and further rewritten or amended to overcome the claim objection for the claim 36 under minor informality, set forth in this Office action.

17. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

20 With respect to claims 7, 20, and 33, the claim limitations are deemed allowable over the prior art of record as the prior art fails to teach or suggest that communication between the second wireless interface and the third wireline interface overrides communication between the fourth wireline interface and the third wireline interface.

The claims 8 is a dependent claim of the claim 7.

The claims 21 is a dependent claim of the claim 20.

The claims 34 is a dependent claim of the claim 33.

With respect to claims 9, 22, and 35, the claim limitations are deemed allowable over the prior art of record as the prior art fails to teach or suggest that coupling of the first wireless interface to the first wireline interface allows communication between the third wireless interface and the third wireline interface, wherein communications between the first wireline interface and the second wireless interface and between the first wireline interface and the third wireless interface are scheduled according to a predetermined schedule.

The claims 10 is a dependent claim of the claim 9.

The claims 23 is a dependent claim of the claim 22.

10 The claims 36 is a dependent claim of the claim 35.

Conclusion

18. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Jones et al. [US 6,137,802 A] disclose automatic media switching apparatus and method.

15 Itoh et al. [US 2002/0072391 A1] disclose communication adapter and connection selection method.

Adrangi et al. [US 2004/0025051 A1] disclose secure roaming using distributed security gateways.

20 Hosein [US 2004/0090916 A1] discloses system and method for wireless network congestion control.

Boehm [US 2004/0085944 A1] discloses portable wireless internet gateway.

Omori et al. [US 5,887,142 A] disclose system for handling of return receipt confirmations of processing when transferring data between the PSTN and a private network.

Michaelis et al. [US 2004/009751 A1] disclose interface selection in a wireless communication network.

Murayama [US 6,433,893 B1] discloses data communication apparatus for combining data with the same identification information.

5 Kikinis [US 5,841,424 A] discloses USB to multiple connect and support bays for peripheral devices.

Chen [US 2003/0210700 A1] discloses system and method of dynamically switching between 802.11b client and access point in MS-Windows environment.

10 Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Christopher E. Lee whose telephone number is 571-272-3637. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:30am - 5:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Rehana Perveen can be reached on 571-272-3676. The fax phone number for the organization where this
15 application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see [http://pair-](http://pair-direct.uspto.gov)
20 [direct.uspto.gov](http://pair-direct.uspto.gov). Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Christopher E. Lee
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2112

CEL/

